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Ekphrastic Songs

Paul Salerni
Lehigh University

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Paul Salerni

Ekphrastic Songs

on poems by David Ferry

for

mezzo-soprano and guitar

Harversters Resting
Cythera
Civilization and its Discontents

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Ekphrastic Songs

I. Harversters Resting

David Ferry

Paul Salerni

Calm, flexible

♩=55

Mezzo-soprano

Acoustic Guitar

p **In the mid-dle of the day,**

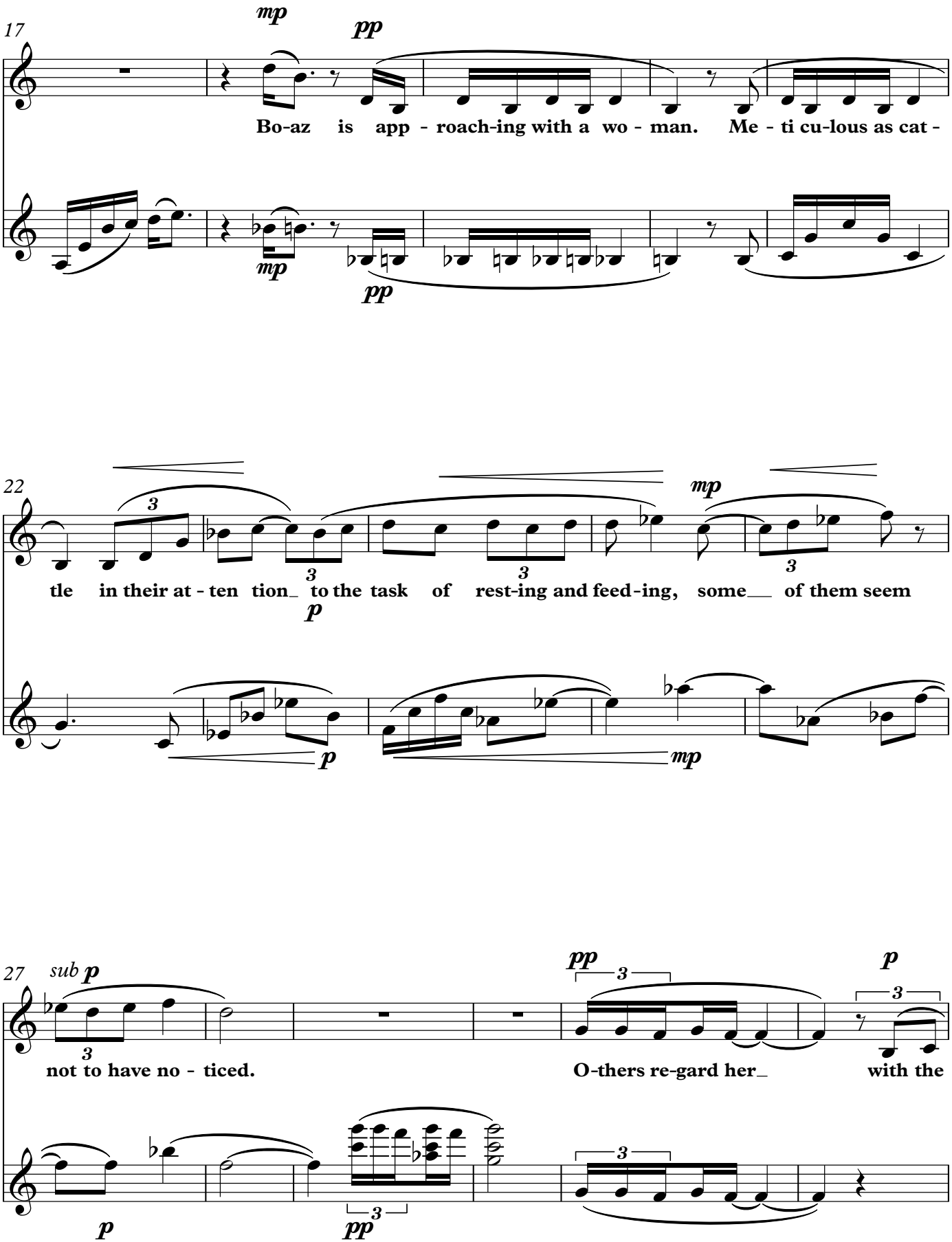
in the great sha- dow **of the**

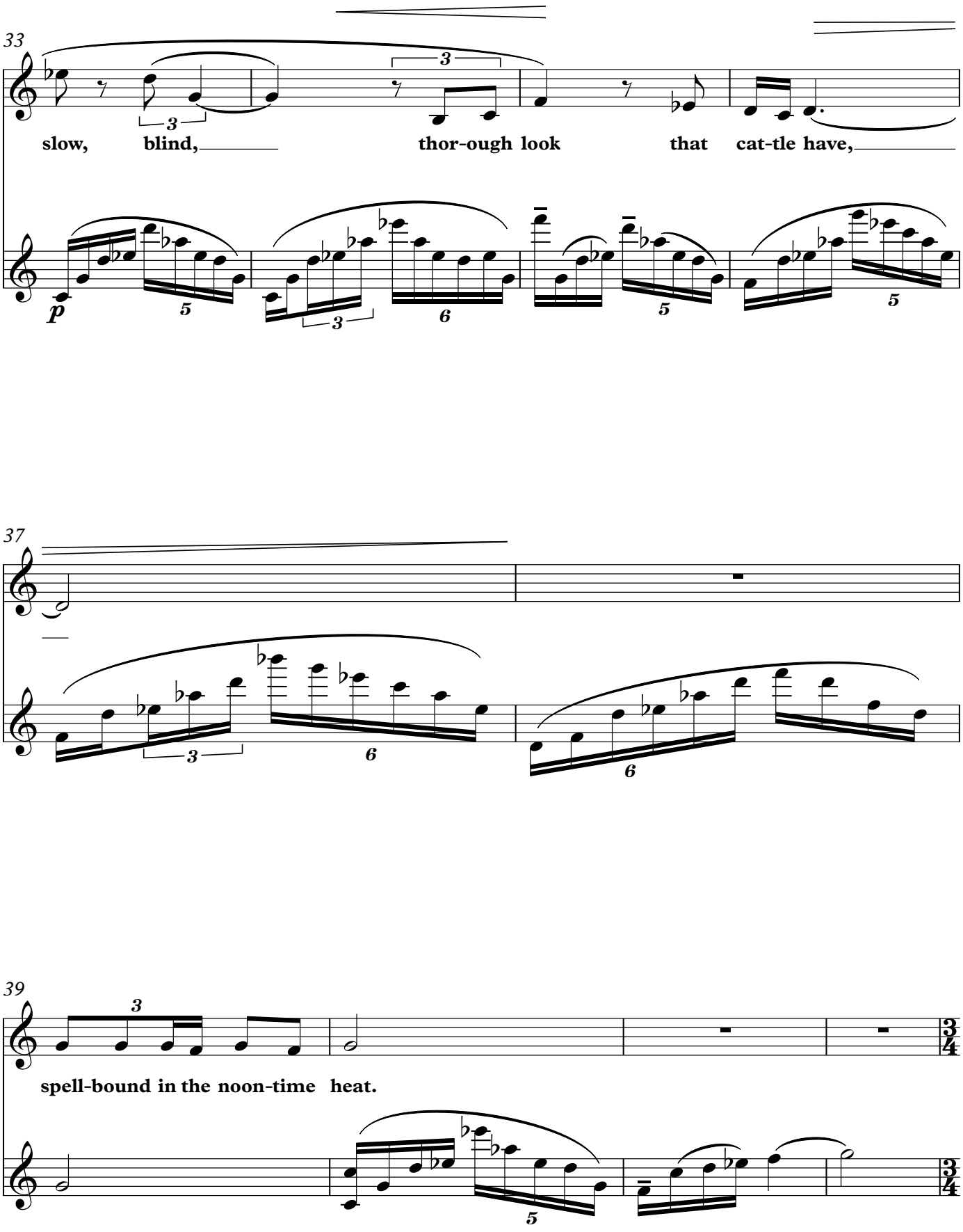
grain stack, **the har** **ves-ters are rest - ing**

pp

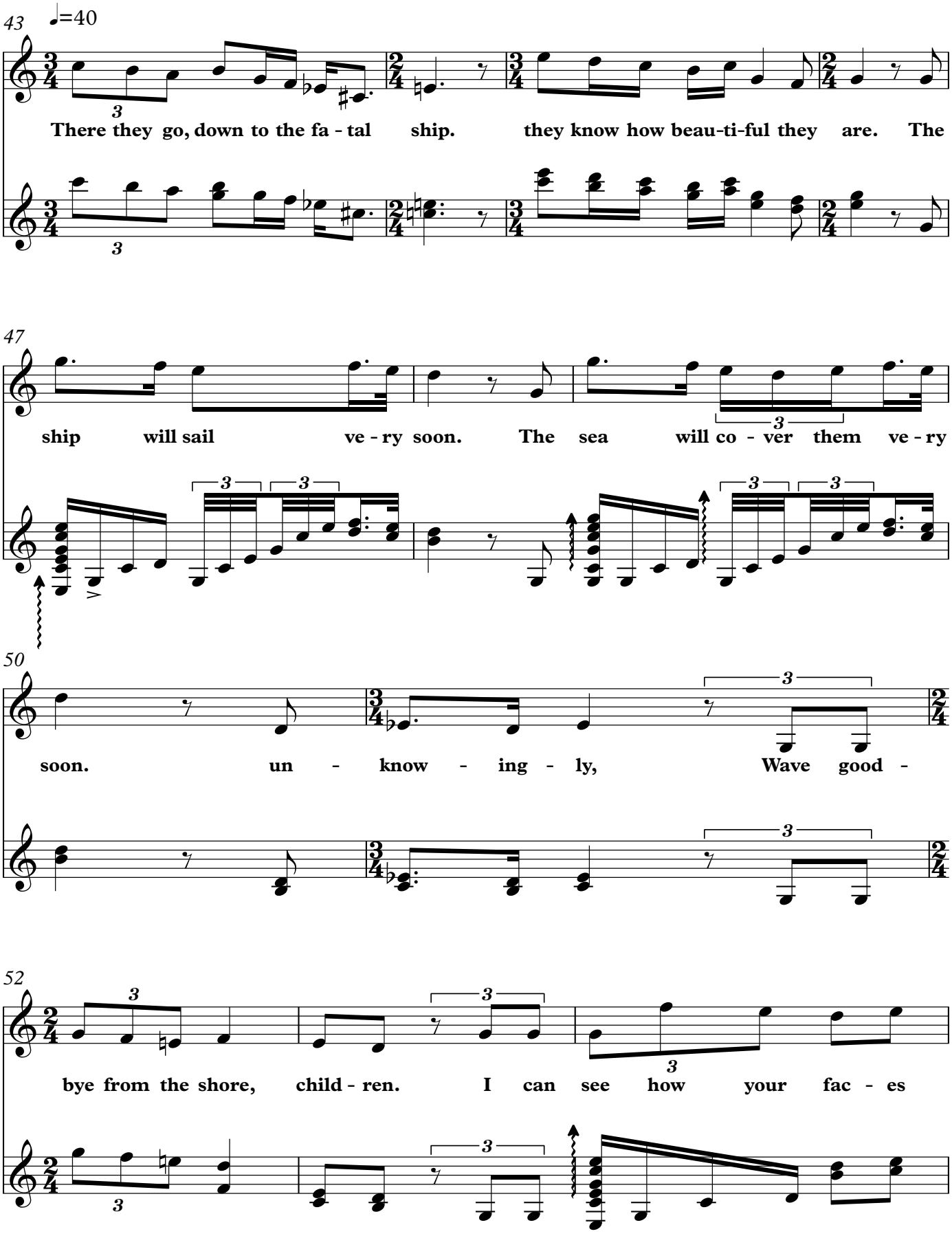
and ha-ving their mid-day meal.

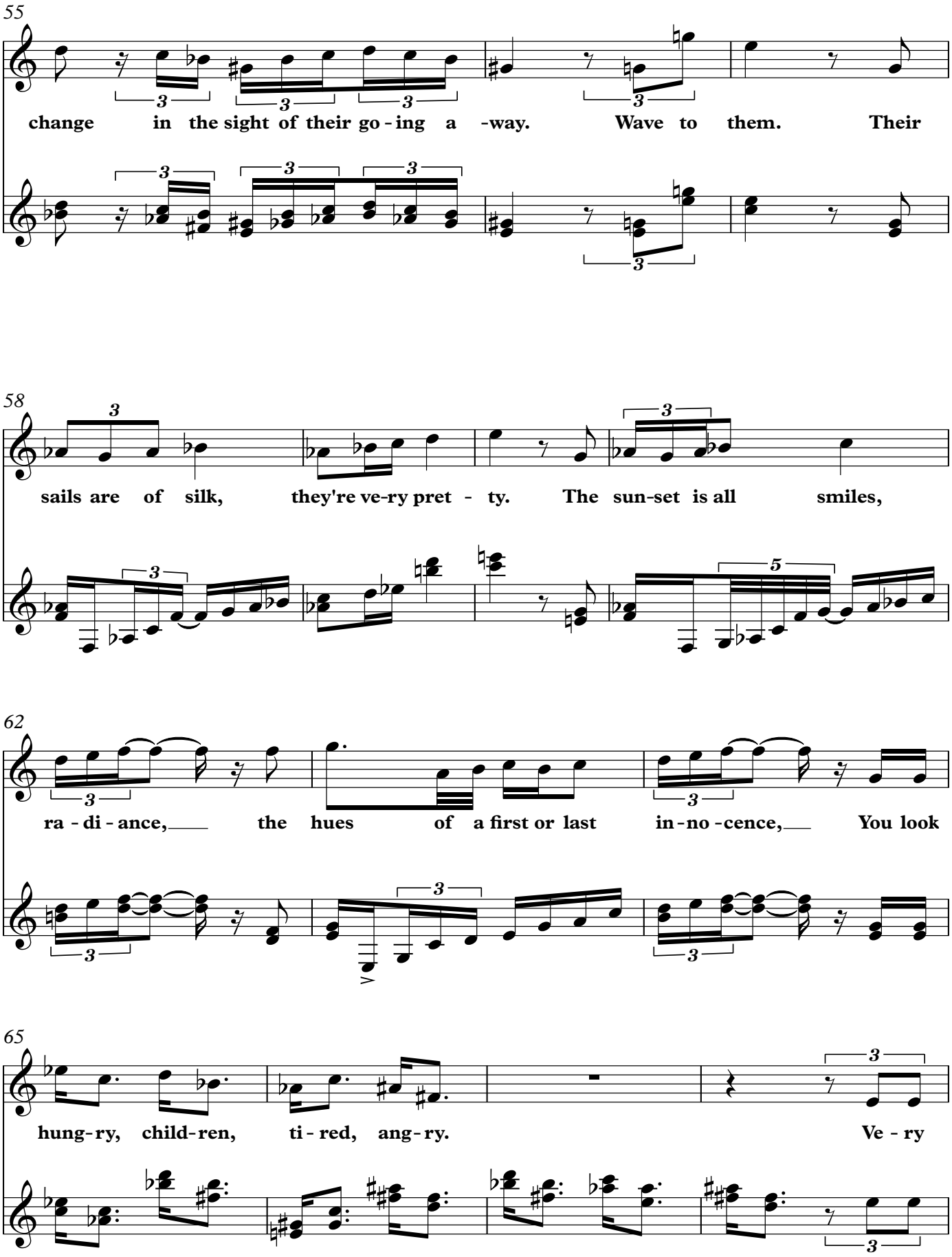
pp

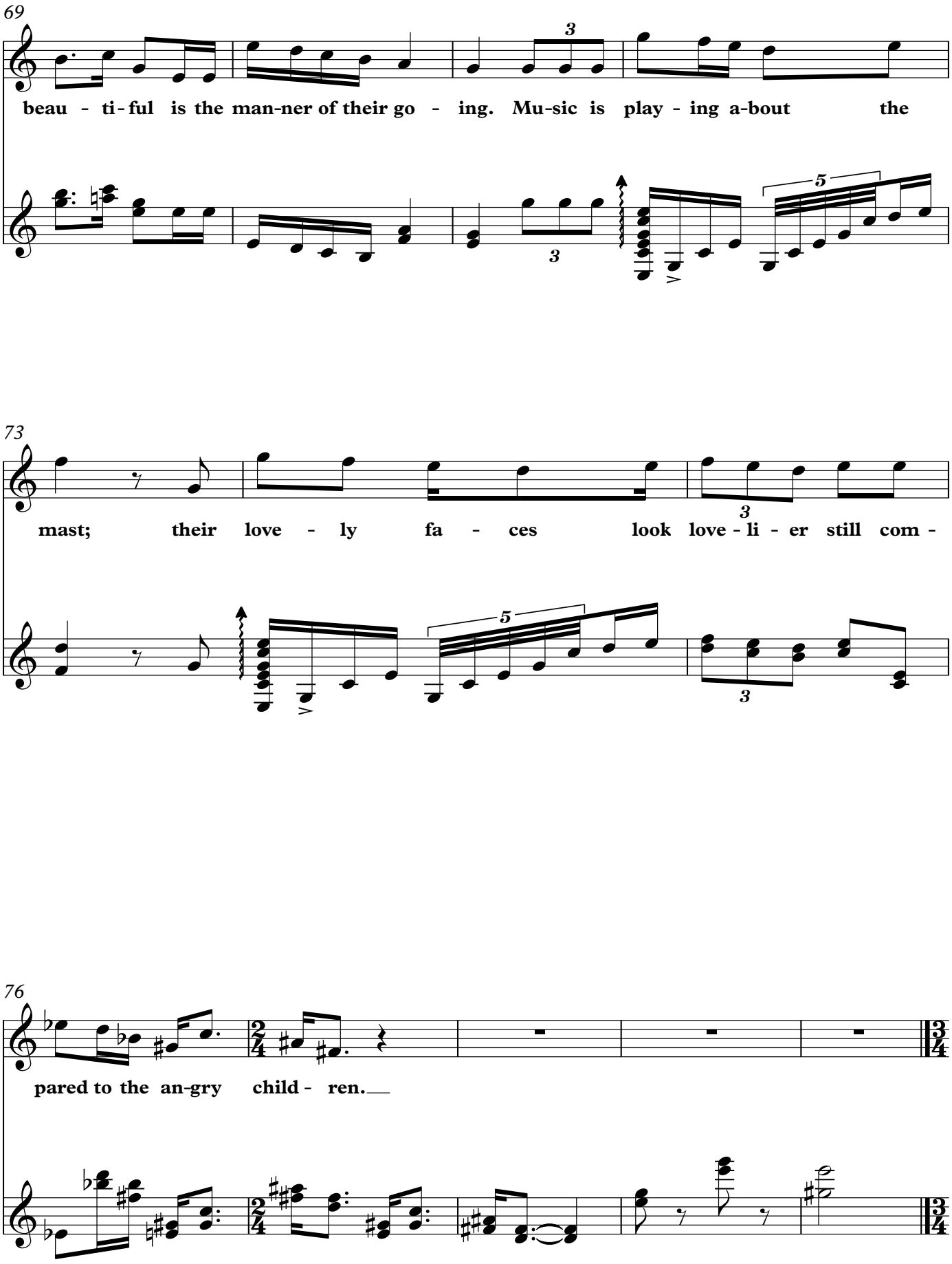

17
mp
pp
Bo-az is app - roach-ing with a wo - man. Me - ti cu-lous as cat -
mp
pp
22
3
3
3
mp
tle in their at - ten tion_ to the task of rest-ing and feed-ing, some__ of them seem
p
p
mp
27
sub p
pp
3
p
3
not to have no - ticed.
O-thers re-gard her_ with the
p
pp
3
3


33
slow, blind, thor-ough look that cat-tle have,
p
37
39
spell-bound in the noon-time heat.

Sweet, but changeable




55
change in the sight of their go - ing a - way. Wave to them. Their
58
sails are of silk, they're ve-ry pret - ty. The sun-set is all smiles,
62
ra - di - ance, the hues of a first or last in - no - cence, You look
65
hung - ry, child - ren, ti - red, ang - ry. Ve - ry


69
beau - ti - ful is the man-ner of their go - ing. Mu-sic is play - ing a-bout the
73
mast; their love - ly fa - ces look love - li - er still com -
76
pared to the an-gry child - ren.

A la Minuet

81 ♩=120

mf

Un-der the bu - rin's me-di - ta-tive gaze,

mf

88

p

caught in the cross-hatch-ing

p

95

and close-work-ing of the great en - gra_ ving of the great

102

f

paint_ ing *Fetes ven - i - ti - enes,*

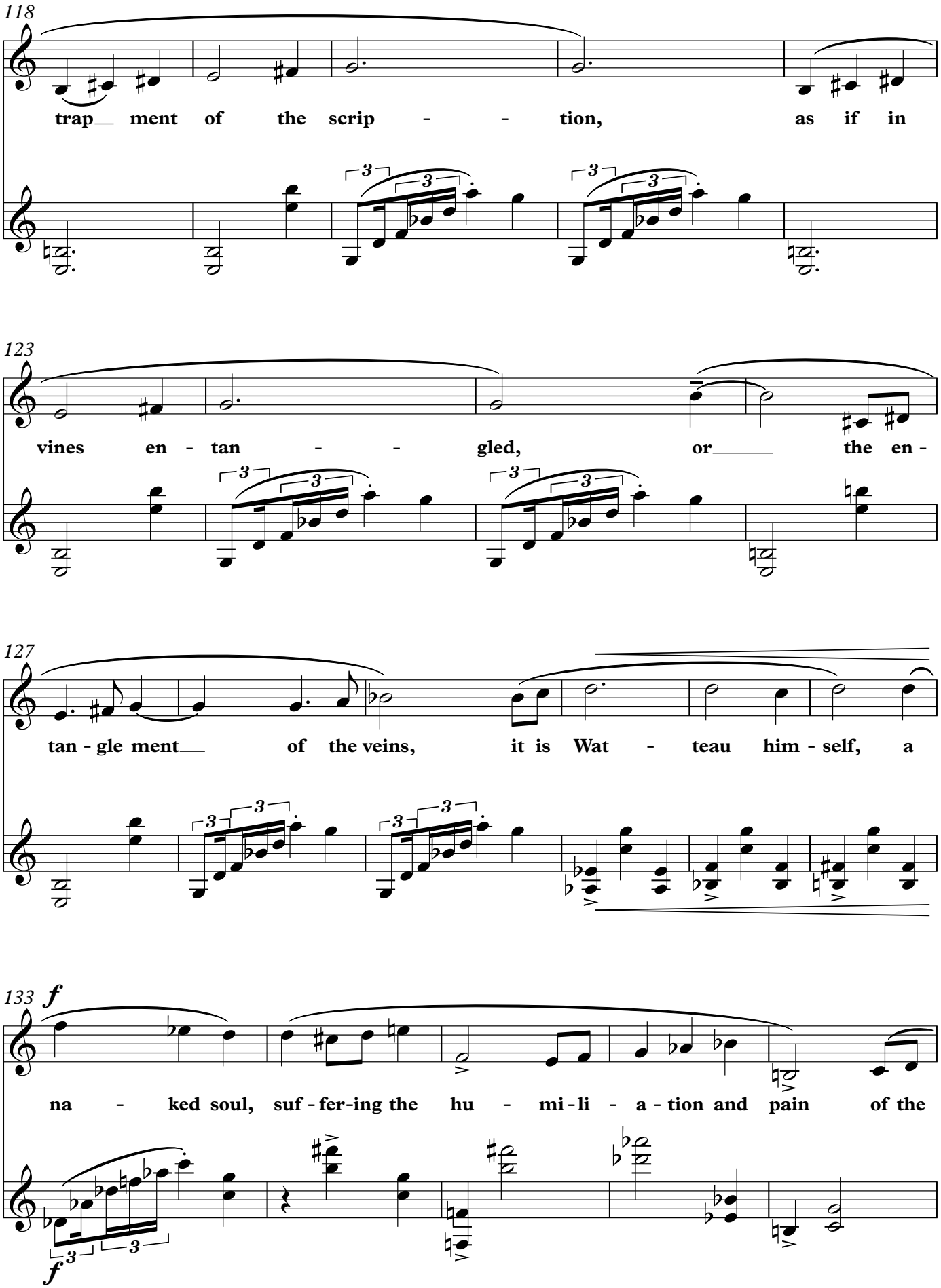
f

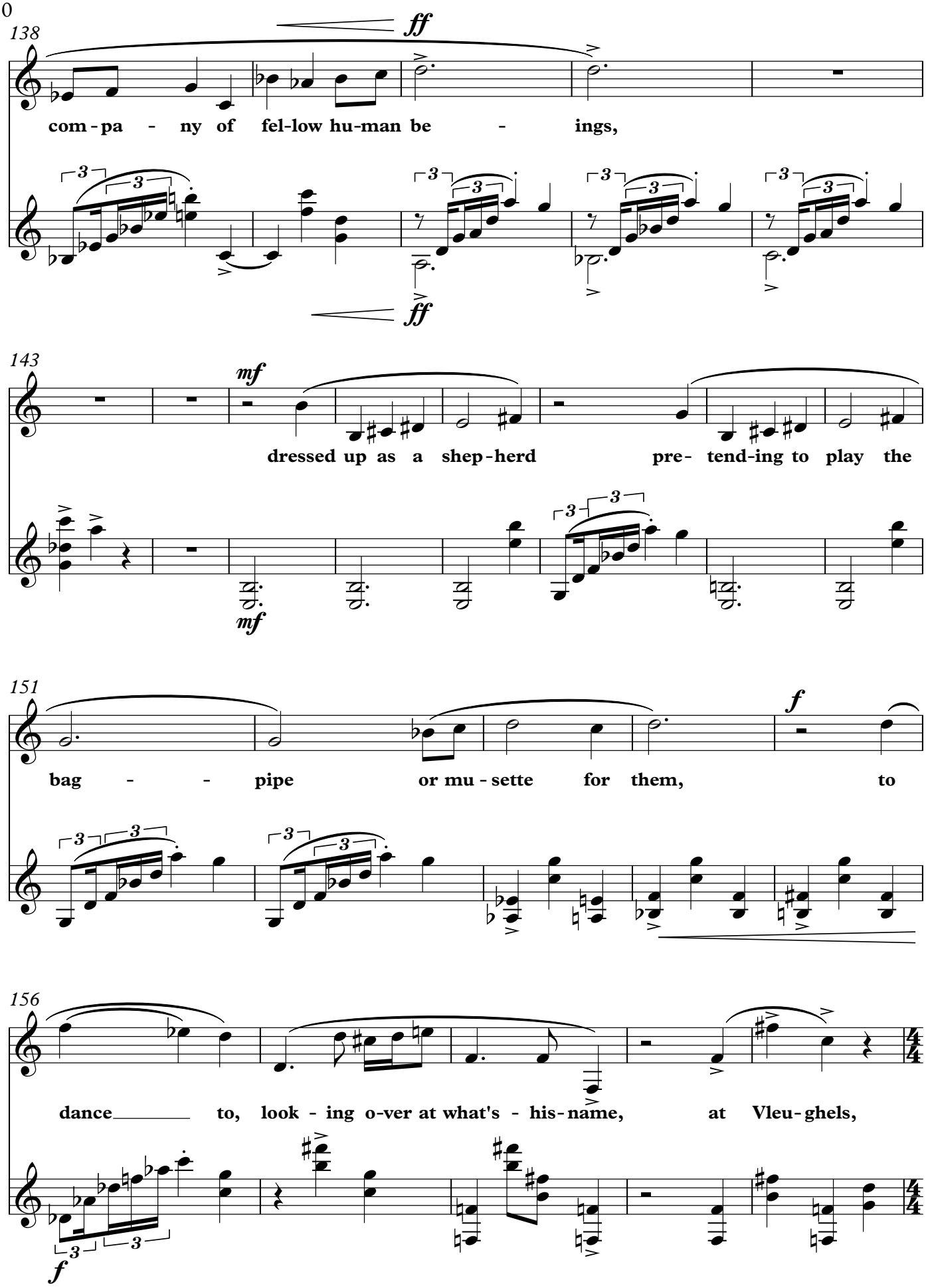
110

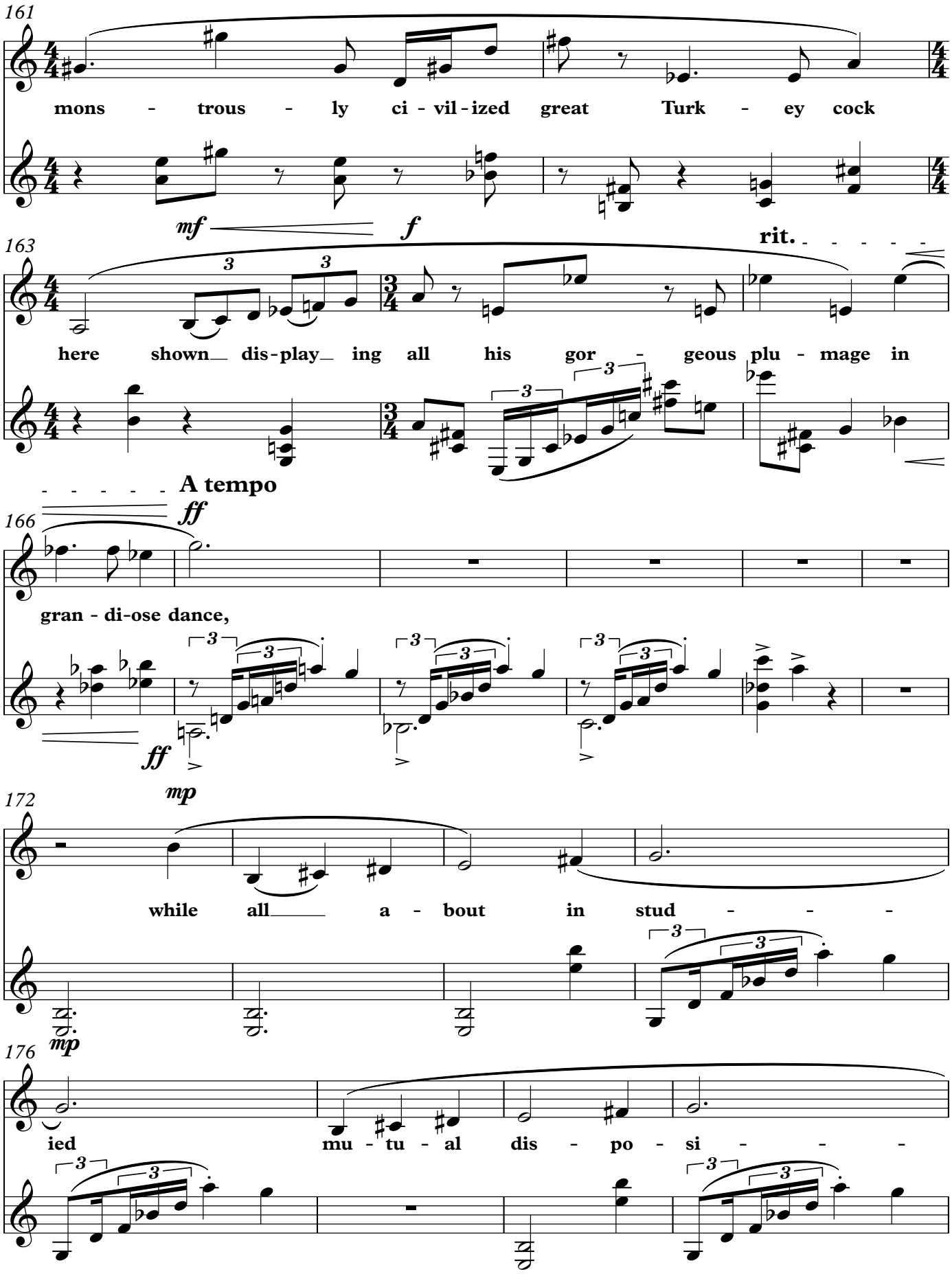
mf

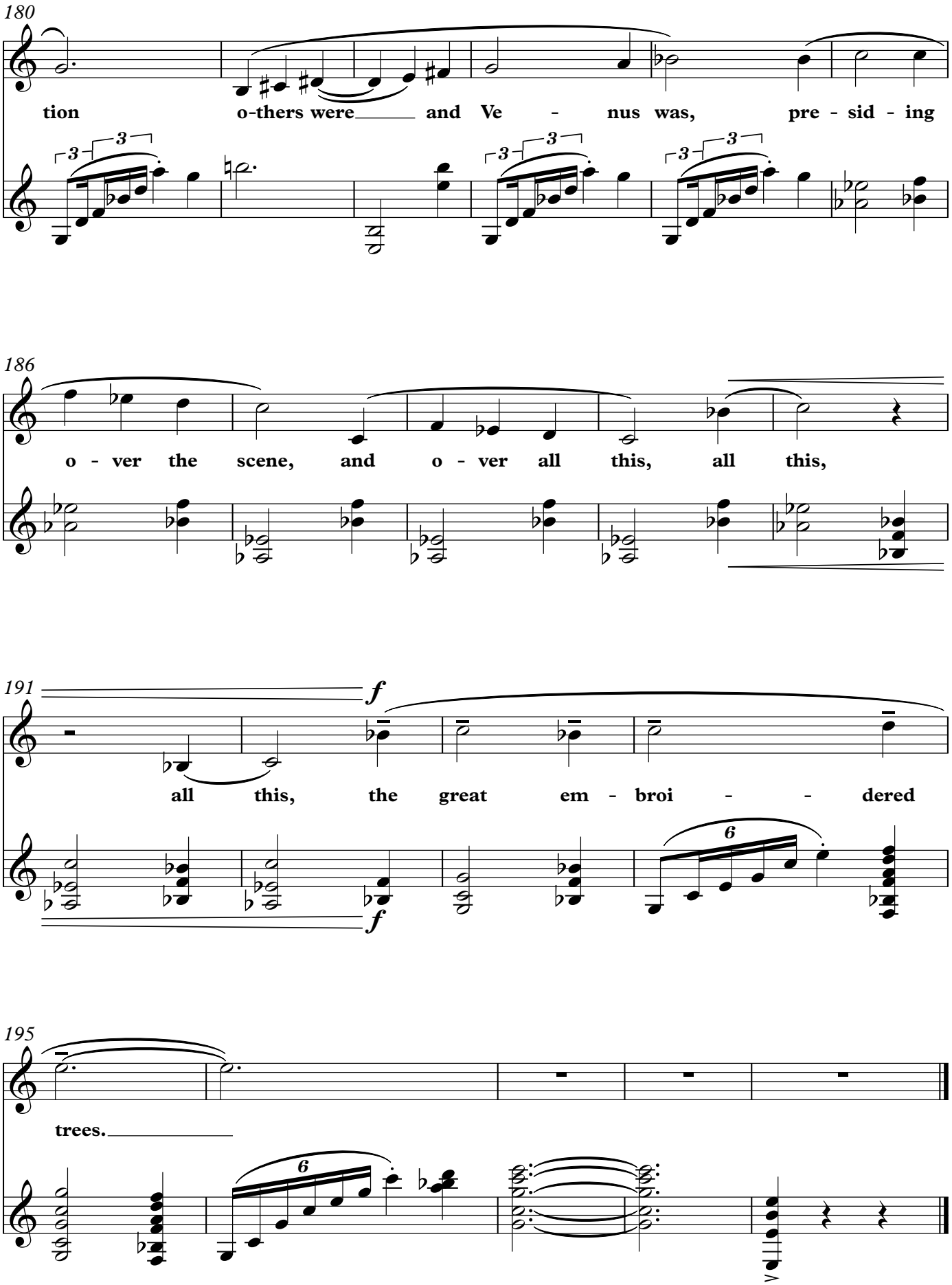
en - tan_ gled in the en-

mf


118
trap__ ment of the scrip - - tion, as if in
123
vines en - tan - - gled, or____ the en -
127
tan - gle ment__ of the veins, it is Wat - teau him - self, a
133
f
na - ked soul, suf - fer-ing the hu - mi - li - a - tion and pain of the
f


138
ff
com - pa - ny of fel-low hu-man be - ings,
ff
143
mf
dressed up as a shep-herd pre- tend-ing to play the
mf
151
f
bag - - pipe or mu - sette for them, to
156
dance to, look - ing o-ver at what's - his- name, at Vleu- ghels,
f


161
mons - trous - ly ci - vil - ized great Turk - ey cock
mf
f
163
rit.
here shown dis - play ing all his gor - geous plu - mage in
A tempo
166
ff
gran - di-ose dance,
ff
172
mp
while all a - bout in stud - - -
mp
176
ied mu - tu - al dis - po - si - - -


180
tion o-thers were and Ve - nus was, pre - sid - ing
186
o - ver the scene, and o - ver all this, all this,
191
f
all this, the great em - broi - - dered
f
195
trees.